

Minutes of the Special and Regular Meetings of February 28, 2006

REGULAR MEETING - 7:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Feierbach, Lieberman, Dickenson, Warden, Mathewson

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: None

Staff Present: Interim City Manager Crist, City Attorney Zafferano, Community Development Director de Melo, Public Works Director Davis, Police Chief Mattei, City Clerk Cook.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by City Clerk Cook

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by the Chamber of Commerce of proceeds from the 2005 Belmont Festival

Maureen Freschet, President, Belmont Chamber of Commerce, presented a check to the City in the amount of \$17,231 from proceeds of the Belmont Festival held in September. She noted that this represents a 17 percent increase over the previous year. She acknowledged the Parks and Recreation Department staff, Mid-Peninsula Water District, the Chamber of Commerce staff and Board, and the City Council for assistance with the Festival.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Warden thanked the Chamber of Commerce for its gift to him of a mah jong set to add to his collection. He acknowledged Mayor Mathewson's well-delivered State of the City presentation.

Mayor Mathewson thanked City staff for its assistance with his State of the City presentation.

Mayor Mathewson congratulated the Carlmont High School Girl's Softball for winning the Central Coast Section (CCS) tournament for the second year in a row.

Mayor Mathewson announced that tonight's Item 9's would be taken up following the Belmont Fire Protection District meeting.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

Councilmember Warden requested the removal of Item 4-D (Ordinance amending Article I, Section 5-1 et seq. of the Belmont Municipal Code (Animal Control), second reading and adoption) for separate consideration.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 24, 2006.

Acceptance of Police Department/City Hall Project - February Monthly Update

Acceptance of Belmont Library/Belameda Park Project - February Monthly Update

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Dickenson, seconded by Councilmember Warden, the Consent Calendar was unanimously approved, as amended, by a show of hands.

ITEM REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

Ordinance amending Article I, Section 5-1 et seq. of the Belmont Municipal Code (Animal Control)

Councilmember Warden requested clarification of the definition of "vicious animal". City Attorney Zafferano responded that this minor change could be made and still move forward with the second reading at this time.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Warden, seconded by Councilmember Dickenson, and unanimously approved by a show of hands to introduce an ordinance (Ordinance amending Article I, Section 5-1 et seq. of the Belmont Municipal Code), to waive further reading, and set the second reading and adoption for March 14, 2006.

COMMISSION, COMMITTEE, AND COUNCIL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ASSIGNMENT UPDATES, AND STAFF ITEMS

Appointments to Planning and Parks and Recreation Commissions

City Clerk Cook noted that applicants and incumbents for the Parks and Recreation and the Planning Commissions had been interviewed by the City Council. She clarified that there are three seats available for three-year terms on the Planning Commission, and one seat available to fill out the remaining two years of a three-year term due to a recent resignation. There are three adult seats and both youth seats available on the Parks and Recreation Commission. She noted that appointments to the Finance Commission would be postponed until the changes in the ordinance governing that Commission were in effect in mid-March.

City Clerk Cook distributed ballots for the Parks and Recreation (Adult) Commission, and tallying was performed. Three candidates (King, Gervais, Andrews) received at least three votes.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Feierbach, seconded by Councilmember Dickenson, Resolution 9754, appointing King/Gervais/Andrews to the Parks and Recreation Commission (Adult) was unanimously approved by a show of hands.

City Clerk Cook distributed ballots for the Parks and Recreation (Youth) Commission and tallying was performed. Two candidates (Lyon, Lustenberger) received at least three votes.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Feierbach, seconded by Councilmember Dickenson, Resolution 9755, appointing Lyon/Lustenberger to the Parks and Recreation Commission (Youth) was unanimously approved by a show of hands.

City Clerk distributed ballots for the Planning Commission and tallying was performed. Two candidates (only) received at least three votes (McKenzie, Mercer).

Councilmember Warden stated there were a wide variety of applicants for Planning. Some are very new to Belmont, some were not familiar with the duties of the Commission, and many had never attended meetings. He did not cast votes for all four available seats.

Councilmember Feierbach noted that if four candidates are appointed to the four available seats, a majority of the Commission would consist of new members. She would prefer that a recent former Commissioner reapply, since experience is needed on the Commission.

Councilmember Lieberman shared the concern regarding applicants who are new to Belmont, and noted that some were not aware of the responsibilities of the Commission. He stated that applicant David Hoffman received two votes, is well spoken, personable, is familiar with the duties and responsibilities, and the need for preparation time. He acknowledged that Mr. Hoffman is new to Belmont.

Councilmember Feierbach acknowledged Mr. Hoffman's recent attendance at Commission meetings and his intelligent responses during his interview.

Councilmember Warden stated he was not comfortable with advocating for individual applicants in a public setting. Each candidate had pros and cons.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Dickenson, seconded by Councilmember Feierbach, Resolution 9756 appointing McKenzie/Mercer to three-year terms on the Planning Commission was unanimously approved by a show of hands.

Discussion ensued regarding options for the remaining open seats on the Planning Commission, and Council concurred to extend the deadline until May and to encourage the remaining applicants to attend meetings and familiarize themselves with the duties and responsibilities of the Commission. Council also directed staff to contact the recent outgoing Commissioners to request that they reconsider their decision not to reapply.

RECESS: 8:10 P.M. (to consider the Belmont Fire Protection District Meeting)

RECONVENE: 10:20 P.M. (following BFPD)

MATTERS OF COUNCIL INTEREST/CLARIFICATION

Discussion regarding suggested Council format for Item 9's (Warden)

Councilmember Warden stated that a consistent format for Council Item 9's would be helpful.

Council concurred to have Councilmember Dickenson work with staff to draft a template for use with Council Item 9's.

Discussion and direction regarding new library dedication (Mayor)

Mayor Mathewson stated he was presenting this request on behalf of a constituent.

Councilmember Feierbach stated she does not support dedicating public buildings to people.

Councilmember Lieberman stated he would support further discussion on this matter.

Councilmember Dickenson stated he does not support this issue.

Councilmember Warden stated the library has always been referred to as the Belmont Library. He does not recall any reference to Mr. Benson in the name.

Council concurred in their desire to have no further discussion on this matter.

Consideration of restructuring of Parks and Recreation Department to consolidate with Public Works (Dickenson)

Councilmember Dickenson stated there was a sense of urgency regarding this issue since recruitment for a new Parks and Recreation Director was under way.

Interim City Manager Crist stated that 20 candidates had already applied.

Councilmember Feierbach stated she does not support elimination of the Director position, and expressed concern regarding the restructuring of the department. Councilmember Dickenson clarified he was not proposing to eliminate the position.

Councilmember Lieberman expressed support for further discussion on this issue.

Council concurred to have this matter discussed further.

Consideration of authorization to contract with a lobby firm regarding solar metering legislation (Dickenson)

Councilmember Dickenson stated he has been working with Senator Speier's office regarding this matter, and additional work may be necessary to flush out the details in the creation of a solar farm.

MEETING EXTENSION: at this time, being 10:30 p.m., on a motion by Councilmember Lieberman, seconded by Councilmember Warden, the meeting was unanimously extended for 30 minutes by a show of hands.

Interim City Manager Crist stated that a cost benefit analysis for the formation of a solar farm would be required, and this issue would also require special legislation. An advocate is needed. The question for Council to consider is whether or not this is a priority at this time.

In response to Mayor Mathewson's question regarding the amount of staff time already spent on this issue, Finance Director Fil stated that a group had been formed and has spent approximately 40 hours on this issue. He noted this concept has potential for Belmont, and City Hall or the Corporation Yard were potential sites for the necessary solar panels. There is a net metering issue with PG&E that requires legislative action.

Councilmember Dickenson stated that the City of San Francisco already has pending legislation, and its lobbyist would like Belmont to join them. There is a timing issue.

Mayor Mathewson stated this issue would likely need to be placed on the Priority Calendar if there was concurrence to pursue this matter.

In response to Councilmember Warden, Finance Director Fil described the cost benefit to implement this program, and noted it increases over the years.

Bob Ledoux, Finance Commissioner, stated there is a positive cash flow at the front end. He noted the company installs and maintains the equipment.

Council concurred to have further discussion regarding this matter.

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 10:40 p.m.

Terri Cook

Belmont City Clerk

Meeting Tape Recorded and Videotaped

Audio Recording 629

Minutes approved 4/11/2006